

REMARKS

Claims 18 through 21 and 31 through 49 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18 through 21 and 31 through 49. Applicants also note receipt of the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter set forth by the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the instant application are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the specification, as well as the amendments and arguments presented by the Applicants.

Claims 31, 36, 27, and 45 have been amended to correct the obvious errors noted by the Examiner. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner, namely to change "the interference layer system" to "the five individual layers" for purposes of antecedent basis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections to the claims are respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 18 through 21 and 31 through 49 are believed to be in condition for issuance.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments made by the present amendment merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

The specification has been amended to remove the priority claim to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/514,437 and to update the priority claim to reflect the issuance of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/168,491 as U.S. Patent No. 6,720,081. Thus, the present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/168,491, International Patent Application No. PCT/EP00/12878, and German Patent Application DE 199 62 144.6. A revised declaration including the appropriate priority claim is filed herewith.

The Office Action asserts that International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878 does not adequately disclose the subject matter of claims 18 through 21 and 31 through 49 and, thus, asserts that the effective filing date of the present application is June 21, 2002.

Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, the Office Action has acknowledged that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/168,491, which has an effective filing date of December 15, 2000, which is the filing date of International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878. Moreover, support for claims 18-21 and 31-43 can be found in International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878 at least in original claims 1-27 of the international application. Similarly, support for claims 44-49 can be found in International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878 at least at page 8, lines 18-26.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the present application is also entitled to an effective filing date of December 15, 2000, namely the filing date of International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878.

Formal drawings replacing original Figures 1 through 12e are submitted herewith. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Figures are respectfully requested.

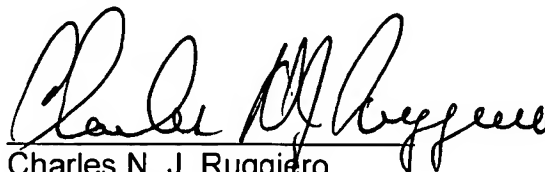
The title has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the specification has been amended to clarify the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 12, line 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Formal drawings replacing original Figures 1 through 12(e) are submitted herewith.